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ALIEN AFFAIR!

STARTS ON PAGE 35

CREEPY

#109



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CREEPY

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DEAR UNCLE CREEPY Everybody loves Roman Kaskalis. Kim McQuillie should win a prize for the Warren Award pages! Will Roman be one of those artists that do two or three covers & then disappear into the sunset? Better not be!

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VAMPIRE DAWN High above the restless shifting of the arctic ice pack the crew of North Am Petroleum oil rig waited through the long arctic night for dawn. Again the ice pack shifted! And thrust a long dead horror from its icy bosom.

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THE RAVENSCROFT AFFAIR

Why did that farmer double over with pain and suddenly disappear? Young Ravenscroft set off to find out. He poked his instruments into all the odd corners he could think of and then...

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ALIEN AFFAIR

ALIEN AFFAIR Was scientists didn't know they'd once been human! They retained human emotions, human passions. But in alien shapes they moved to alien ways. They were in love, but we couldn't tell that either. Nor did we know how they came to be

47

THE HEART OF DARKNESS

Vaulting ambition led him to forsake Man's cradle, Earth, and go reaching out for the stars, out to the heart of darkness. When two aliens meet in that big void, one discovers darkness in his heart!

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Dear Uncle Creepy, DO THE ME ISSUES=DULL ISSUES?

Congratulate me for buying my first issue, CREEPY #106, and don't ask, "What took you so long?"

I was pleasantly surprised to see some Jim Starlin art, and I loved the cover of #106. Welcome to Rome Kukula!

"Gumbly the Barbarian" was great. Pablo Marcos' art made one half of a story from an average script. I especially liked the double splash page. I hope there's one in every issue.

"Fangs" had great art but only an average script. Well, maybe above average. In fact, I rather liked it!

"Primal Equation," had good art, a great story and a taste level score!

As for the rest of the stories, I enjoyed them all and that's what really counts, isn't it?

MIKE BARTRAM
Auburn, Wash.

"Variety is the spice of life." This adage is especially true of CREEPY #105! To be frank, these issues were becoming dull, disasters, robots, mad apes, etc. Monsters seemed to be the only subject covered that had any spontaneity. CREEPY #105, with a wide range of horror and black humor, proved to be the most successful CREEPY since #92.

One suggestion: more American artists like Russ Heath, John Severin and Rich Corben, over such people as Leo Duranena, Moreno Casares and Leopold Sanchez.

BRUCE MCCORKINDALE
Drexel, Neb.

I've been reading CREEPY since the first issue, but these days I only pick up an issue when there is some art and/or story I'm interested in. The Ken Gale/Jim Starlin story in #106 was very good and reminiscent of the quality stories of the Golden Era. The story by Gale is very cleverly written and I enjoyed it as much as I did any story that appeared in the first 20 issues. Jim Starlin's pencils were expertly inked by Joe Rubenstein. Thanks for giving us this story, and I'll be looking for more stories by Mr. Gale, and, hopefully more art by Starlin, and Morine, Torme, Gills, Tobi, Smeem, Heath, Wrightson, and any other fine comic artists I know many of them are busy—

ROGER CALDWELL
Kingston, Tenn.

I'd like to welcome Roman Kukula. Great work on the cover of #106! Hope to see more of his cover work and I'd love to see him do an inside story.

OMER CENGIZ
Somerville, Ma.

Next to VAMPIRELLA, CREEPY is the best Warren magazine. And #106 was the best CREEPY yet.

"Fangs" by Laurie Sutton and Leo Duranena was superb. Duranena is the best artist working for Warren today.

"Gumbly the Barbarian" was second best. Pablo Marcos' talking serpent was fantastic.

In fact, the only dinker in the issue was "Swords in the World Series." It stunk!

MIKE ROCHELEAU
Green Bay, Wisc.

"Sword and Sorcery" is the up and coming genre. Keep this type of CREEPY coming! It even beats Marvel's "Conan."

Hope "The Art of Killing" will have a sequel.

M.N. GOLDBSTEIN
Baltimore, Md.

You'll be pleased to learn that a sequel by Val Mayerik and Larry Harris called "Credentials" is planned for CREEPY #104.



I really have to compliment Warren on CREEPY #106. "Fangs" was a beautiful, ingenious vampire story, and "Gumbly the Barbarian" was another of Bob Toomey's excellent, humorous scripts. I've much enjoyed his dragon stories in other Warren magazines. But my favorite was "Swords in the World Series."

The idea of alien warriors becoming baseball stars and competing in our dimension was not only clever and funny, it pointed out the interesting resemblance of sports and hero-worship to ritual combat and emotional vampirism. Some really nice ideas there. I'd really like to see more stories by Ken Gale and Bob Toomey soon. And at least your new cover artist puts clothes on women! About time, too!

PAUL D'KEEFE
Kirkland, Ms.

The best story in #106 was "Fangs" by Laurie Sutton. The art by Leo Duranena was his best work ever!

Second best was Larry Harris and Val Mayerik's "Art of Killing." The others could have been better, but the great art saved them.

JOHN DURSA
West New York, N.J.

I just picked up CREEPY #106 after not having bought it for five years. I'd decided to see how far CREEPY'd come since then. I wasn't disappointed!

A whole new crew of artists scared me at first because there were no familiar names like Rich Corben. Instead I saw Moreno Casares, Pablo Marcos, etc. I was a little disappointed that there was no color section, but the rest of the magazine more than made up for it!

The cover by Roman Kukula was magnificent, and the best story was the "Art of Killing." I liked the art, but the story won me over. Congratulations on a terrific magazine.

MARTY CONCORAN
Madison, Wisc.

#106 made me realize just how valuable a magazine CREEPY is. I loved Jim Starlin's and Joe Rubenstein's collaboration in "Swords in the World Series." The art was clean and very much to my liking.

LYNDON R. THICKENS
Ashern, Manitoba, Canada

When I saw the cover to CREEPY #106 I knew I had to comment! The cover was simply brilliant. The quality in CREEPY is definitely improving!

P. GRAYPES
Tannerville, N.J.

Roman Kukula deserved the glowing introduction on the letter page of CREEPY #106. His cover was about the best, the most beautiful and certainly the most eye-catching I seen on a Warren book in the last couple of years. I got the impression he's about to become a "regular" and I think that would be great! His style reminds me of Bob Willig's. He's somebody I love to see featured on a Warren mag!

I loved "Gumbly the Barbarian" and I'm fascinated by the possibility that there might really be dream machines in the future. And Pablo Marcos' art, of course, was fantastic!

"Swords in the World Series" shows just how far Jim Starlin has come since the cancellation of his Marvel series, "Warlock." Joe Rubenstein was a great choice for inker, though his work for Marvel's "Iron Man" seemed more realistic. I really enjoyed Ken Gale's story. . . . some managers and magicians will do anything to win!

The man vs. woman theme, the idea behind "Primal Equation," is increasingly familiar, but was, nonetheless, handled with finesse. Lucio Moris art was beautiful. His work gets better with every story.

"Sudden Death Playoff" was a stroke of genius on the part of Bob Toomey and Moreno Casares. It was really imaginative and I enjoyed every page of it!

After a long time, Larry Harris returns to comics, this time as a writer with "The Art of Killing," a tale filled with tragedy. It seems almost insanity in this day and age that men did so much in the name of honor. Val Mayerik's art fit the story perfectly (do I get the impression he's trying to simulate Paul Gacy here?)

CREEPY #106 was a near-perfect issue! However, I wonder how and why Leo Duranena was chosen Best Artist? To me, it's a mystery when Warren has the likes of Casares, Moris, Mayo, Mayerik, Marcos, Starlin and Heath.

HENRY KUJAWA
Cemden, N.J.

MARCH IN THE ARCTIC CIRCLE, NORTH-AM PETROL-RAM STATION FIVE JUTS UP
BARKLY FROM THE FROZEN SEA, A GRACELESS MONUMENT TO HUMAN
PERSISTENCE, HUMAN GREED, AND SOMEWHERE IN ITS METALLIC SPRAWL...

...TWO MEN WAIT. WAIT FOR THE END OF THE
MONTHS-LONG NIGHT, AND PRAY THAT IT
COMES IN TIME.

HAVEN'T HEARD
ANYTHING IN HOURS, LEW.
MAYBE DAYS, I THINK
THEY'RE GONE

THEY'RE AROUND.
THEY GOT NOWHERE
TO GO, CHUCK

Vampire Dawn



MAKING THEM SHUFFLE
OUT A STRANDED SHIP WE
DON'T KNOW ABOUT. / LET'S
CHECK... LET'S DO SOMETHING
FOR GOD'S SAKE!

WO! THAT'S
WHAT THEY WANT
... BUT WE'RE NOT
CRACKING! WE'RE
HOLDING OUT FOR THAT
BEAUTIFUL ARCTIC
DRINK, KD. ALL THAT
DRILLIGHT THAT'S
GONNA FRESH THEM!



LISTEN TO YOUR
BIG BROTHER, CHUCK
NO MATTER WHAT KIND A
SCAPE WE GET INTO...
HAVEN'T I ALWAYS
GOTTEN US OUT?

THIS IS THE
WORST, KIDDO. BUT
IT'S NOT GOING TO BE
ANY DIFFERENT!

LEW, YOU'RE
TALKING ABOUT AN-
OTHER WEEK! I CAN'T
TAKE IT! THIS CRUAWNY
COMPARTMENT'S BEGINNING
TO FEEL LIKE AN ARMY
GLOVE...



IT'S A
COFFIN, LEW! I
CAN FEEL IT! WE HON'T
HAVE IT... WE
HON'T!

YES, WE
WELL! ELLIE'S
HAWKIN' FOR YOU IN
BARROW AND I'M
GETTIN' YOU BACK
IF I HAVE TO--

LEW! LEW!
SQUAWK! READ ME, STATION
FIVE. P. REPEAT.
SQUAWK!



LEW! LEW! DO
YOU READ ME, STATION
FIVE. P. (REPEAT) COME
IN STATION FIVE. REPEAT.
COME. YARRAP!

L-LEW...
THAT SET'S NOT POWER
FUL ENOUGH TO RAISE
BARROW. NOT ALL THE
TIMES WE TRIED IT! IF
SOMEONE'S REACHIN'
US ON IT, THAT MEANS...



HEX COME!
THIS PLACE WAS DESIGNED
FOR EMERGENCIES... IT'S GOT
EVERYTHING WE NEED. GEN-
ERATOR'S RIGHT NEXT
DOOR...

HEAT, LIGHT,
WE GOT IT! SO IT'S NOT
A FOOTBALL STADIUM...
WE COULD RIDE OUT A
TYPICAL WINTER IN HERE.



THE STORM'S
BROKEN. AFTER SOLING
NOT NEARBY! FROM US
NORTH-AM'S GOT A RESCUE
COPTER ON THE WAY!

WE'RE GONNA
MAKE IT, CHUCK!
WE'RE GONNA MAKE
IT!

ONE WEEK EARLIER,
MAKING IT HAD ONLY
MEANT ENDURING THE
LONG WINTER, THE
MONOTONY OF STATION
MAINTENANCE WORK.
THEN...

UP AN' AT 'EM,
YOU SLEEPING BEAUTIES!
JUST CAUSE ARMY BOYS
ON FOREVER UP HERE, DOESN'T
MEAN YOU CAN HIBERNATE!

CHIEF SAYS
THE ICE FLOE DO
SOME SHIFTING...
WANTS OUR CREW
OUTSIDE TO CHECK
FOR STRUCTURAL
DAMAGE

OUTSIDE...? HEY, BUS
BROTHER, YOU TOLD ME ALL THIS
JOB WOULD BE IS SITTY' ON OUR
BUTTS WAITIN' FOR SPRING AND
OUR BONUS CHECKS.

MAYBE
ELLIE'S BEEN
RIGHT ABOUT YOU
ALL ALONG.

WH-WHAT
DO YOU MEAN,
KID...?

SHE THINKS YOU'RE STILL
HACKED THAT SHE DECIDED
TO MARRY ME INSTEAD A YOU
THINKS YOU COMBED ME
INTO THIS...

... HORN!
ALL THE TIMES
ARMY WOULD BREAK
US UP! SALLY
HUH...?

YEAH
PRETTY...
SALLY

OUTSIDE, THERE WAS NO
STRUCTURAL DAMAGE, BUT
SOMETHING WAITED ELSEW,
EERD, IN THE RISING WIND...

WHES ME THE
CREEPS? WHATS HAZUP
EXPECT IS THERE, LEW
THE NORTH-AM BOARD
OF DIRECTORS?

WHO KNOWS?
HE'S THE FOREMAN,
JUST REMEMBER YOU'RE
CARRYING THE FLARE GUN,
BE READY TO SIGNAL THE
STATION IN CASE OF
TROUBLE.

AND RELAX,
SINCE MOM AN' POP
DIED, HAVEN'T I
ALWAYS TAKEN
CARE OF YOU?

HEY HAZUP! WE GOT
A STORM BUILDING...NOT
A GOOD TIME TO BE
PLAYING SALVAGE
MASTER

GRAB A LINE
LIKE EVERYONE ELSE,
JENNAISS! IF THERE'S
TREASURE IN THIS BIG BOX
WE FOUND... YOU AND YOUR
LITTLE BROTHER WILL BE
GLAD YOU RISKED
FROSTBITE!

I PONT BE-
LIEVE IT... I PONT
BELIEVE IT...

LIKE A GHOST
FROM A HUNDRED YEARS
AGO... I SHIFTING MASSES
OF ICE MUST'VE PUSHED
THAT SHIP UP FROM
BELOW!

MOVE YOUR
BARS...THIS COULD
BE SOMETHING FIND!



GOD, LEW
THIS BOX LOOKS
LIKE IT COULD
BE A...

THE
SHIP... IT'S
STARTIN' TO
SHAKE!

THE
FLOE'S SHRTIN'
AGAIN! EVERYBODY
BACK! BACK!



TO THE ROAR OF
CRUMBLING, COLLAPS-
ING ICE... THE SHIP
SAW. A RELIC OF
ANOTHER AGE RE-
CLAIMED BY THE
DEPTHS IT HAD
MOMENTARILY
ESCAPED.



LEAST WE
SAVED THE BOX!
LET'S GET IT BACK TO
THE STATION... CRACK IT
OPEN BEFORE THE GALE
GOES FULL FORCE!

OR BEFORE
THE GALE CLAIMS
IT FOR NORTH-AM
PETROLEUM, HUH, HAZZ?



AS SOON AS IT WAS HUNG TO THE SNOW-SWEPT DECK OF THE STATION PLAT-
FORM, THEY WERE AT IT, PRYING AT THE AGED, BRITTLE WOOD, SHOUTING DIRECTLY
ABOVE THE SHRIEKING WIND, UNTIL...

OH, WELL...
I KNEW IT,
LEW...

NOT
MUCH DECAY.
ICE MUST'VE...
PRESERVED IT
ALL THESE YEARS.

WHAT'RE WE
GONNA DO... WITH
SOMETHIN LIKE
... THIS?



KICK THE
DRUM OFF
THE PLATFORM
CHUCK!

I'LL TRY
TO SMOTHER
THIS STUFF!

ONE OF THE
DRUMS HE KNOCKED
OVER IS LEAKING
FUEL... SOME OF THE
SPARKS GOT TO IT
LOVE IF IT REACHES
THE PUMP WELL.

ALL THE
OIL THIS
STATION'S
SITTIN' ON
WILL GO
SKY
HIGH!



IT'S OVER
THE SIDE
NOW!

YOU OKEY...? IF
YOU HADN'T THROWN YOUR
SELF ON THE FLAME LIKE YOU
DID... WE'D BE ONE BIG BALL OF
FIRE! I'LL BE WAIT FOR ME
FOREVER BACK IN
BARROW.

YEAH, WELL...
THAT'S WHAT BIG BROTHER'S
ARE FOR, RIGHT? ANYWAY,
IT'S ALL FINISHED NOW!



AND
WHATEVER THAT
DAMN THING
WAS THAT GOT
HAPPY IN THE
REST...

...IT'S
FINISHED TOO!

THEY RETREATED INSIDE, AWAY FROM THE COLD, THE SINGING SNOW...
AND THE BROKEN, MUTILATED BODIES OF THEIR CREW MATES.



NO USE,
CHIEF. I CAN'T
RAISE BARROW, NOT
WITH THIS STORM.

MAY BE
JUST AS WELL. I
DON'T KNOW HOW TO
REPORT THIS ANYHOW!
HALF OUR PERSONNEL
GONE... BUTCHERED
BY SOME KIND A
WAMPRE OR BOOSBY-
MAN!



JENNINGS,
YOU AND YOUR BROTHER
JOIN THE MEN ON DECK. SORRY
TO SEND YOU BACK SO SOON... BUT
IT'S GOING TO TAKE EVERYAV-
AILABLE HAND TO CLEAR THE
CORRIDORS AND SECURE THOSE
FUEL DRUMS IN THIS SNOW.



YOU... YOU
EVER SEE ANY
OF THOSE MOVIES
ABOUT WAMPRES,
LEW?

MY TASTES
RUN TO CLINT
EASTWOOD FLICKS.
BUT, YEAH, I'VE SEEN
ONE OR TWO.

THE VICTIMS
DON'T JUST DIE, LEW...
THEY TURN INTO WAMPRES
TOO. IT SORTA SPREADS...
LIKE A PLAGUE.



WHO KNOWS
WHAT'S TRUE OR
WHAT'S NOT IN A MOVIE
KID? BUT THEY FIGHT 'EM
WITH THESE, RIGHT? TAKE
IT... CAN'T HURT.

THE CLEAN-
UP CREW... THEY'VE
BEEN OUTSIDE QUITE
A WHILE. WHAT
'S...

MARTINELLI WAS THE
ONLY GUY ABOARD RELIGIOUS
ENOUGH TO HAVE ONE. MAYBE
IF HE'D CARRIED IT TONIGHT
HE'D STILL BE
ALIVE.

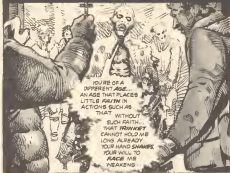


LEW JENNINGS WAS ONLY REASSURING HIS
BROTHER, WHEN SOMETHING TERRIBLE
HAPPENED, YOU MIGHT IT UNTIL YOU SCAT IT
THAT WAS ALL HE BELIEVED. FANCY LORR
ABOUT WAMPRES OR MONSTERS HAD NO
PLACE IN HIS LIFE.

...UNTIL THE HEAVY OUTSIDE HATCH
SLID OPEN TO REVEAL WHAT
WAITED ON THE DECK!



IT SPOKE, DEATH-RATTLE VOICE AND FETID BREATH CARRYING ACROSS THE
STORM.



GUCK STOOD
PETRIFIED AS LEW
LEAPT FORWARD
THE CREATURE
HOWLED... BUT SO
DID LEW JENKINS!
TO THE SLIDING
HATCH'S RELEASE
BOLT!





BUT THIS
BUNCH WON'T
COME AFTER
US...

...IF
THEY DON'T
HAVE LEGS!

BOOM!

THAT TEARS
IT LEW! ONCE OUR
FLASHLIGHTS GO IT'LL
BE PITCH BLACKNESS
AND NO HEAT EVEN
IF THE WAMPYRES
DON'T KNO US.
WELL--

NO WE
MOPPE, DAMMIT!
THERE'S GOTTA
BE-- BACK THE
WAY WE CAME.
CHUCK!

THEY FLED DEEPER INTO
THE STATION, TWICE MORE
THE TORCH MAIMED
PURSUERS BEFORE RUNNING
OUT OF FUEL. THEN...

THE LIGHTS--?
DAMNING--! THEY
GOT TO THE MAIN
GENERATOR!



INTO THE
VENT? HELL, I'D
HAD WE DOING MAINTENANCE
WORK HERE-- IT CROSSES
THROUGH THE DECK TO
THE EAST SUPPORT
PYLON.

THE SUPPORT
PYLON...? P. BACK OF
THOSE HAS AN EMER-
GENCY SHELTER... WITH
THEIR OWN GENERATORS!



WE EVER MAKE IT BACK
TO BARROW... I'M GONNA TELL
ELLIE SHE WAS ALL WRONG
ABOUT YOU, BIG BROTHER

WELL,
WE'RE STILL A
LONG WAY FROM
BARROW KID...



I'M GONNA
GET YOU BACK, BUT IT'S
GOTTA BE A STEP AT A
TIME, AND ABOUT ELLIE--
SHE'S A SMART LADY
KNOWS ME PRETTY
WELL. MAYBE I DO--

LEW, I FEEL
COLD AIR... A RUSH
OF IT. SOMEONE'S
OPENED THE DECK
WATCH ON THE LEVEL
ABOVE!



HERE WE
GO, KID! WE WERE
SUPPOSED TO WORK HERE
HEY... SO WE LEFT ALL
OUR REPAIR STUFF...

GRAB
A TORCH...
TAKE A PREP
BRIGHT... AND
FOLLOW ME!

FIGHTING PANIC, THEY MOVED QUIETLY
TO THE SHELTER COMPARTMENT FOOT-
FALLS BEHIND AN METAL STAIRS
SOMEWHERE BEHIND THEM.

THE ACETYLENE TORCHES WERE LAMPS, HEAVY-DUTY
MODELS. THEY WERE NEVER DESIGNED TO BE
FLAME THROWERS, BUT IN THE NARROW ACCESS
CORRIDOR...

...THEY WOULD BE
ALMOST AS GOOD!

WOOSH

THE VAMPIRES' FLESH MIGHT BE STRONG,
LINDING... BUT IT WAS STILL FLESH.
AND UNDER SUCH INTENSE HEAT... IT
BURNED.

AND WITH THE
CREATURES
SHOWN BACK.

THERE! ANY
ACCESS TO THIS
PLACE IS SEALED
OFF. EVEN IF THEY
TURN TO ASH, THE
GENERATOR-OPERATED
BLOWERS WILL WICK
THEM OUT THE
VENTS.

THOSE THINGS CAN'T
REACH US, KID!

AND WE
CAN'T REACH ANY
ONE ELSE, LEW, NOT
UNTIL DAWN... NOT
UNTIL SPRING!

A WEEK AND A HALF. TWO
WEEKS. NOT LONG. UNTIL
YOU SPEND IT INSIDE A
METAL CUBICLE, WATCHING
FOUR WALLS SHRINK
AROUND YOU WITH EACH
STERILITY-LIKE MINUTE...

...AS OUTSIDE MONSTERS
DANCE AND HOWL FOR YOUR
BLOOD.

LISTEN TO
EM. THEY DON'T BITE
UP. THEY'RE GONNA
FIND A WAY.

KNOCK IT
OFF, CHUCK! EVERY-
THING'S HOLDING! I GOT
YOU INTO THIS... I'LL GET
YOU OUT!

LEW JENNINGS WOULD SAY THIS OVER AND OVER, HOPING WITH
TWO HIS YOUNGER BROTHER WOULD COME TO BELIEVE IT.

AND ON THE DECK, OVER AND OVER THE VAMPIRES RAGED,
HOPING WITH TIME THE STATION WOULD YIELD UP ITS LAST
LIVING PREY.

ABOVE IT ALL, THE STORM
SWEEP ON. UNTIL...

(GRRRTT!...
READ US, STATION
FIVE? WHERE ARE
YOUR LIGHTS... WE
SHOULD SEE YOUR
LIGHTS BY NOW.

COMM.
STATION FIVE...!
ALL BARROWS HORROR
CAUSE YOU DIDN'T REPORT
IN AFTER THE STORM. COM-
PANY EVEN LET BELLE
JENNINGS COME ALONG
TO MAKE SURE HER
HUSBAND'S OKAY.

WHAT...?!
BETTER BRIEF
'EM ON THE SITUATION,
CHUCK... FAST!

RESCUE
COPTER, THIS IS
STATION FIVE!
LISTEN TO ME
BEFORE YOU--

OH MY
GOD! LEW, I'M
BEING DAMNED! THOSE
THINGS ARE AT THE MAIN
TRANSMITTER! THEY'RE
CALLING THE CHOPPER
DOWN!

WHOOM!

BEFORE LEW CAN SPEAK...
AN EXPLOSION TEARS
THROUGH THE ACCESS
CORRIDOR!

TOO LATE LEW REMEMBERS THE
DYNAMITE... KEPT ON HAND FOR
BREAKING UP THE SPRING ICE
JAWS.



DON'T LAND!
ON GOD, DON'T
LAND! ELLIE...!
SOMEONE!
LISTEN TO ME!

KID! OVER
HERE WITH ME...!
BEFORE THEY COME
IN! CHUCK!

PERHAPS BECAUSE THEIR LEADER IS OF AN
OTHER CENTURY... THE BROOD HAVE BEEN SLOW
TO USE ALL AVAILABLE TO THEM.



BUT AS THEY SURGE
VOLUNTLY INTO HIS
WAITING FLAME...



LEW SEES TO HIS
HORROR, THAT IS NO
LONGER THE CASE.



DON'T LET
THEM DO IT LEW!
DON'T LET THEM MAKE
ME ONE OF THEM! I
DON'T WANT TO GO
AFTER ELLIE! I--
AAAH! EEE!

THE FIRE-FIGHTING SUITS CAN'T
SAVE THEM ALL... BUT ONLY
ONE NEEDS TO GET THROUGH
MORE THAN ONE DOES

THOUGH HE DOESN'T CEASE
HIS DESPERATE BATTLE,
LEW JENNING KNOWS HE'S
FAILED...

HE HAS ONLY TO LISTEN TO
HIS BROTHER'S DYING
SHREWS

AND THE TORCH IN HIS HAND
HAS TOO LITTLE FUEL LEFT
TO EFFECTIVELY SPARE
CHUCK EVEN THIS FINAL
OBSCURITY.



WHEN
YOU'RE NOT
EVEN A MATCH
FOR ME?

LEW DOES NOT LOOK BACK.
HE ALREADY KNOWS
DEATH--OR WORSE--IS
HURTLING AT HIM.



WATTS I
CAN STILL HELP
YOU AFTER
ALL, KID...

FOOL!
WOULD YOU
FIGHT THE
LOT
OF US--

RAVING, FRUSTRATED LEW NOWHERE
CHARGES UPWARD TOWARD THE
STATION DECK THE THINGS FEAST-
ING ON HIS BROTHER DON'T BOTHER
TO PURSUE LEW HAS NOWHERE
TO GO...

EXCEPT INTO THE DUTCHES OF THE REST OF THEIR KIND PATIENTLY WAITING FOR
THE HELICOPTER'S ARRIVAL.

HE WANTED A VOLUNT STRONGER
TANK EXPECTED... BUT IT CARRIES
HOW WOULD HE WANT TO GO
FORWARD, IF THE CREATURE
HAD TWO HANDS, IT MIGHT
HAVE PULLED HIM TO THE
DECK... INSTEAD OF SENDING
THEY BOOM TUMBLING OVER
THE EDGE OF THE PUMP
WELL.



FALLING INTO BLACKNESS,
LEW ZENINOS FEELS THE
TANGS AT HIS THROAT... AND
IGNITES HIS ACETYLENE
TORCH FOR THE LAST TIME.



WELL, THOUGH IT IS, THE FINAL
SPUTTER OF FIRE, DOES WHAT
IT'S SUPPOSED TO DO. IT
ALLOWS LEW TO GIVE HIS
YOUNGER BROTHER TWO MUCH
TO REPLY A DEBT OF LOVE
AND BUILT...

WITH A FUNERAL PYRE FED BY THE BEARING FORCE
OF ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND GALLONS OF OIL!

IN THE RAGE OF ITS FURY, THE APPROACHING HELICOPTER
CAN ONLY TURN BACK... LEAVING THE BALL OF FLAME
TO ROAR ON THE HORIZON, LIGHTING THE AFTERMIDNIGHT.



WALK ALONG PROMISED DAWD.

THE COMIC BOOKS

by Joe Brancatelli

NOTES ON COMIX PEOPLE

As you may already know, Hustler and Chic magazine publisher LARRY FLYNT was convicted for distributing obscene material after his most recent trial in Georgia. What you may not know is what the 36-year-old entrepreneur said about the cartoons appearing in Hustler. During his testimony, he termed the magazine's cartoons "extremely gross," but claimed they were published as social commentary, not as humor. As of this writing, Flynt has yet to be sentenced in the Atlanta cases. His first Georgia obscenity trial, in Lawrenceville, ended after he was shot by a would-be assassin. He's still paralyzied from mid-thigh down.

The hottest new trends in women's fashions these days have been inspired by a relatively obscure comic-book artist named BILL WOGGON and his long-defunct Katy Keene strip. Published by Archie Comics, Katy Keene was a back-up in the humor titles in the late 1940s, but then had its own magazine from 1950 to 1961. Katy, the main character, was one of those leggy, big-busted types that populated the "girl's" and "romance" titles of the day. What made Katy Keene different, however, was the dazzling array of slinky dresses, off-beat hats and hairdos and panel after panel of funky, mildly suggestive costumes Woggon drew for Katy. Most were designed in pell mell fashion by Woggon, who's now an illustrator of religious coloring books, but many other outfits were suggested by Katy Keene fans who mailed in sketches. The Katy-inspired fashions got their initial kick off in January during a main-

window display at New York's chic Saks Fifth Avenue store. The frilly, kooky stuff has since been lovingly praised by the fashion critics and designers have been adding "Katy clothes" to their lines. The Saks display was developed by a staff fashion coordinator, 34-year-old MARILESE FLUSSER, an unabashed Katy Keene fanatic. "Katy-type fashion is happening today," she says. "Strapless dresses, form-fitting tops, slit skirts, sexy shoes, conversation-piece hats... they're pure Katy! Not only that, but today there are pieces like discos where you can wear fun outfits and movie-star clothes." Flusser, who's writing a book on Woggon and Katy Keene, says many top fashion designers have admitted to her that they were "closet" Katy fans during their childhood.

RICK MARSHALL is spearheading Marvel's drive to produce an upscale, adult comic of the Heavy Metal ilk. After repeated name and emphasis changes, the book is presently titled Epic Illustrated, features 80 pages, many in full-process color, a long list of big-name contributors, a monthly frequency and a \$1.50 cover price. Managing editor Marshall says the book is a "pet project" of Marvel publisher STAN LEE. It was Lee, Marshall says, who convinced corporate big-wigs, including president JIM GALTON, to produce the book. The first issue, with a print run of 300,000 copies, will go on sale in late July and set the editorial tone for later issues. It'll include comics, especially a highly-touted strip from newcomer ART BOYDAN, a text fiction piece, an interview with a non-comic "fantasy" personality and humor illustrations by FRED HEMBECK. "We're

playing it for college-age and older audiences, people who've possibly read normal Marvel comics and given up on them," Marshall says. "Our advertising slogan's going to be something like 'Remember how you used to like comics?'"

ARTIE ROMERO, a long-time comic fan, has gotten out about a year's worth of Cascade Comics Monthly, all to enthusiastic reviews. A digest-sized "hardcore" about the underground comix field, Romero's magazine includes interviews with rarely discussed "ug" artists, news, reviews and comic strips. Cascade is growing very fast and very sophisticated: It's a must if your comics interest runs beyond the Marvel/DC syndrome. A six-issue subscription is \$3, available from Everyman Studios, 432 S. Cascade, Colorado Springs, Co. 80903.

Romero's book isn't the only underground publication around, however. The longest-running is Comix World, a weekly newsletter published and edited by CLAY GEERDES, a critic whose interests are thankfully wider than most people's in the field. Geerdes edits CW with an eye towards the new, a distinctly upbeat view of the "ug" and a dour, their-day-has-past view of the Marvel and DC output. His 2-page weeklies are invaluable—and they've been invaluable for a lot of years. A 24-issue sub. for \$6.00 is available from Geerdes at Box 7081, Berkeley, Ca. 94707.

GERALD J. SLADE, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Western Publishing, has been under considerable pressure ever since it was announced that Mattel, Inc. is acquiring the company. Western is primarily a toy-store-oriented pub-

lishing house, but is also the parent company of Whitman Books and Gold Key comics; Mattel is the nation's leading toy-maker. The sale, reliably reported to be a cash-and-stock transfer, has been estimated at about \$121 million, but some observers feel Slade is letting Western go too cheaply. "Obviously, if I didn't think it was a very good deal for Western shareholders, we wouldn't have signed the letter of intent to sell," he snaps at inquiring reporters and security analysts.

The comic-distributor lawsuit we mentioned in our last issue shapes up something like this: According to papers on file in Federal District Court in Baltimore on March 6, 1979, IRWIN SCHUSTER, a Maryland-based comic dealer, is suing Cadence and Magazine Management (Marvel's parent firm) DC Comics and DC's parent, Warner Communications; O'Quin Studios, publishers of Starlog magazine; and comics dealers PHIL SEULING and MARK FELDMAN. All are accused of conspiring to monopolize the comics market and force Schuster and his company, Ijinx Enterprises, out of the comics business in the Baltimore-Washington area. Schuster is also suing Seuling and his company, Sea Gate Distributors, for libel. Schuster and Ijinx are asking upwards of \$5 million in damages. Everyone involved has denied the allegations or is negotiating with Schuster's lawyers. Seuling, however, has filed a counter-claim against Schuster and another distributor, Detroit-based Big Rapids, and filed a cross claim against Cadence, Magazine Management and DC. Seuling is asking upwards of \$3 million in damages. A trial is presently set for October 1.

**COLOR, READ, WEAR,
& HANG THEM!**

A NEW
COLLECTION
FROM THE MOVIE
**BATTLESTAR
GALACTICA**



BATTLESTAR GALACTICA POSTER
All of Galactica's Delatons on one
anonymous full color poster. In full
black color--the ships, the people, the
action & the planet. **\$19.95** in



BATTLESHIP GALACTICA POSTER
Huge full color poster of the Cyron Robots attacking the crew of the Galactica in the laboratory under the Cyron monitoring screen! \$19.99/EA



PEN-N-POSTER

Two gigantic 17½" x22" posters in black and white that come with poster pins in brilliant colors for hours of coloring fun! These poster-packed posters feature the Suburbans, a space dog fight, the Ollies, and the evil Cylin Poles. This mega success! and astounding success before takeorder series is now preseries in all the poster-packed glory on these two under control. 20011204



PEN-N-POSTER

Three pigments (black & white)
17 1/2" x 22" postage payable with
three business order postal
order price is 17 1/2" x 22"
about 1/2 the cost of
for two colors of
more. Full assembly
instructions are in-
cluded for the user!
622-2234/4



GALACTICA CREW IN COM
A diagnostic full water leak
out of the crew from Battle
404! Galactica with Colony
& Vipers! 2011/6/24/20



BATTLESTAR GALACTICA GLITTER IRON ON
A fabulous new touch from Sephora Glamour!
This new brush duplicates the Glamour, the in-
tensifier breakthrough that protects the skin—
bright! Easy to use—!!
KID1001 20



The greenest sauce made ever is packed into this delivery. The original comes from the Brooklyn, NY 11201 area.



London peaked at more than 100 in the second half of 1998. The outbreak ended in 1999, a decade after it began. *ECDC* says it is



BATTLESTAR ATTACK IRON CH
Lovers here, ships explode. The
Cybers advances and the Warriors
of the Fleet resist! A work
in progress. 02/11/2002



CITIZENSHIP — A bill introduced by Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.) would allow U.S. citizenship to anyone who has lived in the United States for at least five years and has been married to a U.S. citizen for at least three years.



SPACE BATTLE FROM-ON Brilliant
Mars-like planet hangs in a midnight blue
star-studded sky as the *Oplya*'s mara-
ble ships attack *Vipers* from the rear of
the *Colossus* on RMC. **A-29-43/01-22**



CYLOM BATTLE FROM ON: A large 1-6 color band of the CyloM features from Barcelona Defective attracting incredible colors, window gleaming, vibrant and blinding explosion, make them battle from on! www.100144.com

PROLOGUE



THE ORGANIZER

INMATE NUMBER 77864 REPORT TO THE WARDEN'S OFFICE IMMEDIATELY AFTER EXERCISE - REPEAT, INMATE NUMBER 77864 REPORT TO THE WARDEN'S OFFICE...

THAT'S YOU, RALPHIE BOY? WHAT'S UP? THE WARDEN DONNA LEND YOU HIS OLD LADY FOR A COUPLE OF NIGHTS FOR GOOD BEHAVIOR - HEH HEH!

NAH, SHARKEY, RALPHIE'S GONNA SCORE SOME POPE UP THERE, AINT YOU, RALPHIE?

YOU COMPLAINERS JUST HOLD DOWN BUSINESS UNTIL I SEE WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT AND I DON'T WANT NO FIGHTIN' OR REAL MACHIN' 'TILL I GET BACK, YOU GOT THAT ANGEL, BRIDGES?

WE GOT YOU, BOSS, NO SWEAT!

FIRST THE BAD NEWS, DIXON: THE STATE REINSTATES THE DEATH PENALTY NEXT MONTH. IT WILL BE IN EFFECT BEFORE YOUR TRIAL ENDS. I'M SORRY...

CHARMING. WHAT'S THE GOOD NEWS? I GET TO PULL THE SWITCH MYSELF?

COME IN, DIXON AND SHUT THE POOR. THIS IS DR. STAMFORD, AN ENTOMOLOGIST FROM CORNELL, AND MR. BUNGHAM, AN EMPLOYEE OF THE GOVERNMENT.

GENTLEMEN, RALPH DIXON...

THESE GENTLEMEN ARE HERE TO OFFER YOU AN ALTERNATIVE... IF YOU COOPERATE, I'M TOLD IT'S EXTREMELY DANGEROUS--

OF COURSE!

- BUT IT INVOLVES A MAN WITH YOUR ORGANIZATIONAL EXPERTISE, MR. BUNGHAM?

I BELIEVE YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH A NEW YORK MOOD NAMED JOE CORELLO, MR. DIXON?

YEAH, I BEEN HIM AROUND.

WE KNOW YOU ONCE HAD BUSINESS DEALINGS WITH HIM, THAT YOU'VE BEEN TO HIS HOME, EVEN SPENT THE NIGHT THERE.?

JOE'S GOT SOMETHING YOU WANT... AND YOU WANT ME TO GET IT FOR YOU? NAH NA!

NO SHAKES! I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES WITH THE HOT SEAT! JOE CORELLO'S ESTATE IS BETTER GUARDED THAN FORT KNIX! I'D LOOK LIKE A SWINE BEFORE I GOT TO THE FRONT PORCH!

MR. CORELLO HAS AN ACCUMULATED SOME IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS BELONGING TO ANOTHER GOVERNMENT.

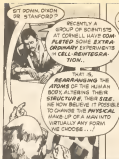
WE NEED A MAN WHO KNOWS CORELLO'S ESTATE-- TO FIND THESE DOCUMENTS AND PHOTOGRAPH THEM.

SOMEONE WITH THE LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATIONAL SKILL TO SPEARHEAD A TEAM OF MEN INTO THAT MANSION.

EVERYONE IN JACKSON PRISON KNOWS YOU'RE THE KINGPIN AROUND HERE, DIXON. ALL THE INMATES TAKE THEIR ORDERS FROM YOU AND YOUR BOYS.

YOU'RE FAMOUS IN YOUR CAPACITY AS AN ORGANIZER...!

I REPEAT, GENTLEMEN, THE CORELLO PLACE IS IMPENETRABLE!





"THE TRANSFORMATION PROCESS IS PAINLESS. THE GREATEST DANGER IS GRACE MENTAL REACTION TO YOUR NEW-ASPECT BODIES. SOON, YOU'LL BE A WASP, ANGELO, A BEETLE, SHARKEY, A DRAGON FLY, AND BRIGGS... A LOCUST

AT FIRST YOU'LL
APPEAR QUITE
UNUSUAL TO EACH
OTHER--THE WORLD
WILL BE A
WIDE, ALLEN
PLACE

-- DON'T LET
THIS
XRAY YOU
YOU GROW
ACQUAINTANCE
TO IT

"YOU'LL COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER VIA THE SAME TRANSMITTING EQUIPMENT YOU'LL BE USING WITH OUR TEAM IN THE TRUCK.



"ONCE INSIDE THE MANSION DO NOT DELAY! YOU ARE EXTREMELY VULNERABLE IN THE STATE TO A MOST OF OUTSIDE FORCES!"

YOU WILL BE RELEASED FROM THE BREAD TRUCK AT EXACTLY 6:45 PM...ONE MILE OUTSIDE THE ESTATE GROUNDS. STAY IN RADIO CONTACT AT ALL TIMES!"

STAY ABOVE
THE FENCE, BOYS.
IT'S ELECTRIFIED

HEY THIS
FLYIN' AIN'T HALF
BAD! I COULD GET
USED TO THIS,
RALPHIE!

WEEB!
RIGHT OVER THEIR
HEADS! LOOK AT
THEM DUMB
MUTTS!

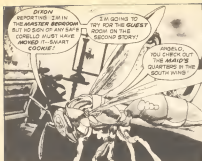
OKAY, HERE'S
WHERE WE SPLIT-
UP! ANGELO, YOU TAKE
THE EAST WING! BRIGGS
YOU'VE GOT THE PORCH
POOR! SHARKEY, YOU AND
ME GO FOR THE GARDEN,
AND WATCH OUT FOR
CORELLO'S WOODS!

BRIGGS REPORTING
WE'RE IN THE MASTER
LIVING ROOM... NOBODY IN
SIGHT... WILL TRY TO REACH
THE BEDROOM VIA THE
NORTH HALL!

SHARKEY,
YOU GO THAT
WAY!

THIS IS
ANGELO REPORTING...
I'M IN THE EAST WING!
ONE OF CORELLO'S BOYS IS
ASLEEP ON THE COUCH IN
HERE! LOOKS LIKE BUGGY
GUZZARD, THE FAT SLOB!
I'M HEADING FOR THE
BEDROOM! OVER
AND OUT!

BRIGGS HERE!
I'M IN THE NORTH KITCHEN!
MAN YOU NEVER SAW SO MUCH
FOOD IN YOUR LIFE! CORELLO
MUST BE HAVING A BANQUET
TONIGHT!



DYON
REPORTING: I'M IN
THE MASTER BEDROOM
BUT NO SIGN OF ANY SAFE!
CORELLO MUST HAVE
MOVED IT--SMART
COOKIE!

I'M GOING TO
TRY FOR THE GUEST
ROOM ON THE
SECOND STORY!

ANGELO,
YOU CHECK OUT
THE MAID'S
QUARTERS IN THE
SOUTH WING!



SHARKEY
REPORTING: I'M
FLYING DOWN THE
HALL TOWARD
THE--

UHH!



IT'S A TRAP!
CORELLO'S SET UP SOME
KIND OF SNARE IN HERE! I'M
CAUGHT UP IN SOME SORT OF
STICKY ROPES!

CONTROL
TO SHARKEY: CORELLO
HAD NO IDEA YOU'RE IN
THERE! IT CAN'T BE A
TRAP! IT MUST BE
SOMETHING ELSE!



OH MY GOD!
AGGGHHH! A
WEB! IT'S A SPIDER'S
WEB!



RALPHIE!
HELP ME! IT'S
COMIN' FOR ME!
I CAN'T STAND
IT!

WHERE
ARE YOU,
SHARKEY? GIVE
ME A LOCALE
REPORT!



THE NORTH
HALL! HURRY! HURRY!
IT'S ALMOST ON ME!
OH, LORD!



IT'S ALMOST
ON ME! RALPHIE!
RALPHIE!
EEEEAAAGGG!



SHARKEY
(GROANS)...







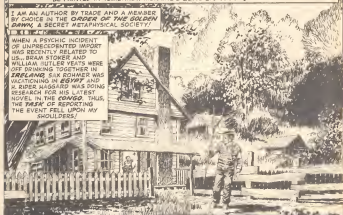


HE WASN'T
CALLED "THE ORGANIZER"
FOR NOTHING!

MY NAME IS **BYRON MERRIDEN**! YOU MUST EXCUSE THE FACT THAT THIS NARRATIVE IS SOMEWHAT RUSHED, BUT I'M WRITING THIS JUST ONE HOUR SHORT OF A DEADLINE... SO THAT IT WILL BE PRINTED IN TOMORROW MORNING'S **LONDON TIMES**!

I AM AN AUTHOR BY TRADE AND A MEMBER BY CHOICE IN THE **ORDER OF THE GOLDEN DAWN**, A SECRET METAPHYSICAL SOCIETY!

WHEN A PSYCHIC INCIDENT OF UNPRECEDENTED IMPORT WAS RECENTLY RELATED TO US... **BRAM STOKER** AND **WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS** WERE OFF DRINKING TOGETHER IN **IRELAND**, **SAX ROHMER** WAS VACATIONING IN **EGYPT** AND **R. RIPER HAGGARD** WAS DOING RESEARCH FOR HIS LATEST NOVEL IN THE **CONGO**. THUS, THE **TASK** OF REPORTING THE EVENT FELL UPON MY SHOULDERS!



The Ravenscroft Affair

IT HAPPENED ON A SUNNY DAY IN MAY ALMOST ONE YEAR AGO! **MR. HOWARD P. HAWKINGS**, A SIMPLE FARMER, TURNED TO **WAVE** TO HIS FAMILY BEFORE ATTENDING TO HIS CROPS...

...SUDDENLY SCREAMED IN SHARP **PAIN** AND DOUBLED OVER, CLUTCHING AT HIS STOMACH...

...AND **DISAPPEARED!**



THE LOCAL CONSTABULARY DID NOT BELIEVE THE DISTRAUGHT WIFE'S STORY! IN DESPERATION SHE CONTACTED THE **GOLDEN DAWN** AND, HENCE, MYSELF! I INVITED A YOUNG INVENTOR AND FRIEND, **ROBERT RAVENSCROFT**, TO AID IN THE INVESTIGATION!



WHILE RAVENSCROFT QUESTIONED THE POOR WOMAN, I REACHED INSIDE MY COAT FOR A PAD AND PENCIL!



IN A HALTING VOICE, MRS. HAWKINS SPOKE OF THE EVENTS THAT LED TO HER HUSBAND'S DISAPPEARANCE!

RAVENSCROFT, BY ALL OUTWARD APPEARANCES, WAS VISIBLY MOVED!



HE SWORE A SACRED OATH...



...TO ASCERTAIN EXACTLY WHAT FATE BEFELL THE HAPLESS FARMER!

WE RETURNED TO THE FARM LATER THAT WEEK WITH A DEVICE FROM RAVENSCROFT'S OWN LABORATORY!



THE YOUTHFUL SCIENTIST INFORMED ME OF A NEW THEORY IN PHYSICS THAT MATTER AND ENERGY CAN NEITHER BE CREATED NOR DESTROYED!



THEREFORE, MR. HAWKINGS COULD NOT HAVE VANISHED! RATHER, HIS BODILY EXISTENCE HAD TO BE... **TRANSFERRED!** RAVENSCROFT WAS CONVINCED THAT THE FARMER HAD WALKED THROUGH, IN HIS OWN WORDS, "A DIMENSIONAL DOORWAY". HE WAS EQUALLY POSITIVE THAT HIS ELECTROMAGNETIC DEVICE WOULD NOT ONLY **LOCATE** THE ENTRANCE TO THIS SO-CALLED DOORWAY TO ANOTHER WORLD...



... BUT WOULD ALSO **OPEN** IT UP! DUE TO THE ROTATION OF THE EARTH AND MAGNETIC FLUX, THIS DOORWAY... THIS **WORM**, IF YOU WILL, MUST HAVE MOVED TO A DIFFERENT PART OF THE FARM! HE SEARCHED FOR DAYS...



THEN, WHILE BUSINESS TOOK ME ELSEWHERE, ON A HOT DAY IN JUNE, RAVENSCROFT'S INVENTION REGISTERED WHAT HE CALLED A **TEMPORAL EDGIE!**



WOULD THAT I COULD HAVE BEEN THERE TO LEND MY FRIEND THE **SUPPORT** HE SO SORELY NEEDED...



... FOR, HE TURNED ON HIS CONTRIVANCE THAT WOULD **OPEN** A WINDOW IN THE VERY FABRIC OF SPACE AND TIME...



... AND **PEERED** STRAIGHT INTO...



... **HELL!**



LATER THAT NIGHT, I FOUND RAVENSCROFT SPRAWLED UNCONSCIOUS OVER HIS INVENTION! EITHER HE HAD RECEIVED SOME SORT OF ELECTRICAL SHOCK...

SUMMER TURNED TO AUTUMN AND MY FRIEND WAS A CHANGED MAN! FREQUENTLY HE WOULD TALK TO HIMSELF IN LONG, RAMBLING DISCOURSES!

HE SPOKE OF VISITING OTHER CELESTIAL SPHERES... JOURNEYING TO ETHEREAL DIMENSIONS... BUT MOST OF ALL, OF ONCE AGAIN CONTRACTING THE THING HE HAD GLIMPSED BEFORE PASSING OUT!



HOWEVER, THE MAGNETIC FLUX HAD FADED AND HIS PORTABLE MACHINE WAS NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO GENERATE ANOTHER DOG-WAY! RAVENSCROFT FELL INTO DESPAIR AND FALLS CHANGED TO...

...OR THE SIGHT THAT GREETED HIS EYES WAS TOO MUCH FOR HIS SOUL TO BEAR!

...WINTER! THE INVENTOR BEGAN TO LIVE AS A RECLUSE! HE'D STAY UP HALF THE NIGHT IN HIS DRAWING ROOM, BROODING OVER MYRIAD DETAILED SKETCHES OF THE CREATURE.



THEN, IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT, HE WAS STRUCK WITH AN IDEA...



...THE FRUITS OF WHICH HE SHOWED ME WITH A STRANGE GLINT IN HIS EYE TWO MONTHS LATER!



RAVENSCROFT HAD BUILT A GARGANTUAN ELECTROMAGNETIC GENERATOR IN THE BASEMENT BENEATH HIS DRAWING ROOM!



HIS GOAL, APPARENTLY, WAS TO CREATE A **HOLE** IN REALITY LARGE ENOUGH FOR A MAN TO ENTER!



HE WAS **OBSESSED** WITH THE NOTION OF BEING THE FIRST TO COMMUNICATE WITH AN ALIEN SPECIES AND RETURN TO PUBLISH THE RESULTS!

IT WAS THEN THAT I REALIZED MY FRIEND'S UNCHARACTERISTIC BEHAVIOR OF LATE WAS NOT DUE TO THE **ZEAL** OF SCIENTIFIC INSPIRATION...

...BUT WAS **MADNESS INCARNATE!**



I ALSO BEGAN TO SUSPECT THAT THE THING HE HAD **ENCOUNTERED** HAD MESMERIZED HIM... HELD HIM IN ITS HYPNOTIZED SWAY!



I TRIED TO DISSUADE HIM FROM HIS **INSANE** SCHEME...



...BUT HE **STOICALLY REFUSED** TO LISTEN TO REASON!



I DECIDED TO RETURN THE FOLLOWING DAY AND HAVE MY FRIEND COMMITTED TO A SANITARIUM FOR HIS OWN PROTECTION!

LITTLE DID I DREAM THAT HE WOULD ACTIVATE THE MACHINE UPON MY DEPARTURE! I IMAGINE HE WAS TOO **EXCITED** TO SLEEP THAT NIGHT WHILE THE GIANT DEVICE BUILT UP THE NECESSARY CURRENT TO OPEN AND MAINTAIN THE DIMENSIONAL PORTAL...



...AND WORKED WITH CLAY TO PERHAPS
RELAX HIS **JANGLED** NERVES... OR
PRODUCE AN OFFERING HE COULD GIVE
THE ALIEN CREATURE AS A GIFT!



HE MUST HAVE
SCULPTURED
TILL DAWN...



... BEFORE SLEEPING, TOTALLY **EXHAUSTED!**

I RETURNED THE NEXT DAY WITH THE
NECESSARY PAPERS TO HAVE MY FRIEND
PLACED IN AN ASYLUM!



I KNEW SOMETHING WAS DREADFULLY **WRONG!**
I COULD FEEL THE VIBRATION THROUGH THE
FLOOR OF **RAVENSCHROFT'S** STILL-RUNNING
GENERATOR IN THE BASEMENT BELOW MY FEET.
RAVENSCHROFT DID NOT ANSWER HIS BUTLER'S
KNOCK!

WITHOUT HESITATION, I **KICKED IN**
THE DRAWING ROOM DOOR...!



APPARENTLY, WHILE RAVENSCHROFT SLEPT, THE MONSTER HAD
ENTERED **OUR** WORLD! THE THING, I SURMISE, POSSESSED
A RUDDIMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

THE CREATURE HAD NO DOUBT
FANCIED RAVENSCHROFT'S
SCULPTURE AND NOT HAVING
THE MEANS OF RETURNING
THE FAVOR, **SEVERED** THE
INVENTOR'S HEAD AND
PLACED IT ON THE DESK
NEXT TO THE BUST!



THE HORROR IS **AT LARGE**
THIS VERY MOMENT ROAM-
ING THE STREETS OF
LONDON! IT IS MY FER-
VENT PRAYER WE CAN
STOP IT IN TIME!

ARE YOU TELLING ME
WE STILL HAVE NO IDEA
WHICH CREW MEMBER
WAS THE SURVIVOR?

GOVERNMENT
COMPLEX -
KEEP OUT..

CHET, I'M TELLING
YOU WE CAN'T EVEN
FIGURE OUT WHAT
SEX IT IS...

OR SHOULD I SAY
WAS! WHAT WERE CON-
FRONTED WITH HERE IS
A TRANSFORMATION RESULT-
ING IN A TOTALLY ALIEN
PHYSIOLOGY!

DWIGHT YOU'VE GOT
TO GIVE ME MORE
THAN THAT TO TAKE
BACK TO THE FRONT
OFFICE!

WE DO HAVE A THEORY, CHET! TISSUE
SAMPLES FROM BOTH OUR SURVIVOR
AND THE HULL OF THE SPACECRAFT
AKE A DEFINITE MATCH!

I'M AFRAID I'M NOT
FOLLOWING YOU, DWIGHT.
TRY TO SPELL IT OUT
FOR ME IN PLAIN
ENGLISH, PLEASE.

ALL RIGHT, CHET, I
ASSUME YOU'RE FAMILIAR
WITH THE AGE-OLD QUEST-
ION: WHICH CAME FIRST,
THE CHICKEN OR THE
EGG?

RIDDLES!
YOU'RE TELLING
ME RIDDLES
NOW?

ALIEN AFFAIR

IT ~~BEGAN~~ THE DAY BEFORE...AT
0210 HOURS...24,000 MILES
ABOVE THE EARTH'S SURFACE...

I AM NOW APPROACHING
THE SATELLITE...PREPARING
TO USE THE **LASER SCALPEL**,
WIKI AND TAKE MY WORD
FOR IT...NO MATTER HOW
YOU LOOK AT THIS STUFF...
IT'S PRETTY REVOLTING!

SANDY AND I
WILL BE THE JUDGE
OF THAT, IF YOU
DON'T MIND!

YOUR JOB IS TO
SIMPLY BRING BACK
A VIABLE SAMPLE
FOR ANALYSIS!

AND FRED...TRY TO
CHOOSE AN INTEREST-
ING SECTION BEFORE
YOU CUT!

YOU'LL BE
INTERESTED
MY FRIEND, I
GUARANTEE
IT!

0218 HOURS...AND ASTRO-PHYSICIST
FRED WILLOWS RETRACES HIS WAY
BACK TO THE ORBITING *HERMES-2*...

CAREFULLY OH SO CAREFULLY SHE-
GUARDING THE THROBBING POR-
TION OF **LIVING TISSUE** INSIDE
THE RECEPTACLE CRADLED
BETWEEN HIS HANDS...

...NOT TAKING NOTICE OF THE
LIVING MORSEL THAT HAS
TAKEN HOLD ONLY A FEW
INCHES AWAY FROM THE CLOSING
HATCH...

...A **LIVING, THROBBING**
MORSEL OF LIFE!





SEVERAL ORBITS LATER—GAZE UPON THE SHAPE OF THE HERMES-7 SCULPTED AGAINST A BRILLIANT SUN...

BUT LOOK AGAIN—AND PERHAPS YOU'LL NOTICE THE SHAPE OF ITS HULL IS NOT QUITE WHAT IT USED TO BE...



...AND WE REPEAT: HERMES-7, YOU ARE NOT TO INITIATE ANY ACTION WHATSOEVER UNTIL THE RESCUE-ORBITER ARRIVES!

IT WILL BE THEIR JOB TO CUT AWAY THE WILDLY RAMPANT GROWTH THAT HAS ENVELOPED YOU!



IT HAS BECOME CLEAR THAT THE ALIEN ORGANISMS WHICH LATCHED ONTO THAT RELAY SATELLITE HAVE NOW SPREAD TO YOUR VESSEL!



WE'VE EQUIPPED THE RESCUE CREW WITH OUR MOST ADVANCED HIGH-YIELD LASER HARDWARE...SO JUST SIT BACK AND RELAX IN THE INTERIM, HERMES-7!

WE READ YOU LOUD AND CLEAR, SIR.



SANDRA... MIKE... FRED...

FROM ALL OF US DOWN HERE... ALL OUR HOPES ARE WITH YOU UP THERE!

OVER AND OUT!



HMM... WHY IS IT I DON'T FEEL LIKE THE COMMANDER HAS EASED MY MIND?

IF YOU ASK ME, HE SOUNDED DOWNRIGHT MORBID! SO—ANYONE FOR A GAME OF CHECKERS?

AND YOU TWO HAVE THE AUDACITY TO CALL YOURSELVES SCIENTISTS? GO AHEAD—PLAY YOUR MINDLESS GAMES!

HE, I'M GOING OUTSIDE FOR A FIRST-HAND LOOK AT WHAT'S HAPPENED TO US!

THE STARBOARD ACCESS HATCH—WHERE SEVERAL ORBITS AGO THERE WAS ONLY A MORSEL OF THROBBING LIFE CLINGING TO THE HULL...

GIVE IT UP FRED! THERE'S JUST NO WAY ANY OF THESE HATCHES WILL OPEN! WHY DON'T YOU JUST ACCEPT THE FACT THAT WE'RE A CAPTIVE AUDIENCE IN HERE UNTIL HELP ARRIVES?



FORTY-FIVE MINUTES LATER...
ANSWERS ALSO SEEM TO
BE IN SHORT SUPPLY ABOARD
THE HERMES-7...

WELL, SANDY... WHAT DOES
YOUR **DIAGNOSTIC EQUIP-
MENT** TELL YOU?

NOTHING CONCLUSIVE
YET, MIKE... I'LL HAVE TO
RUN THE RESULTS
THROUGH THE COMPUTER.

YOU CAN
PUT YOUR **SHIRT**
BACK ON!

I'M REALLY
WORRIED, FRED!
I HAVE A SIMILAR
GROWTH ON MY
ARM... YOU HAVE
ONE ON YOUR
SHIN...

WHATEVER IT IS,
ALL THREE OF US HAVE
IT! FOR ALL WE KNOW,
THE CONDITION COULD
ALREADY BE HAVING
EFFECTS ON US
WE'RE NOT EVEN
AWARE OF YET!

WELL, AT LEAST
YOU SEEM TO BE
FINALLY TAKING
OUR PREDICAMENT
SERIOUSLY!

FRED... WHY ARE
YOU LOOKING AT
ME LIKE THAT?

WHAT
IS IT?

FRED YOU'RE
HURTING ME!
LET GO OF
MY ARM!

IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT! YOU'RE
THE **BIOLOGIST** ON THIS MISSION
... IT WAS YOUR JOB TO IDENT-
IFY THIS THING AND TELL US
HOW TO **PROTECT** OURSELVES
AGAINST IT...

YOU BOTCHED
IT, LADY... AND
NOW THE THREE
OF US HAVE TO
PAY FOR YOUR
STUPIDITY!

I TOUGH TA
TEAR YOU
APART!

TAKE
A NAP,
FRED!

THWOKKK



"HE WAS LIKE A CRAZED
MADMAN, MIKE... NOT LIKE THE
FRED WE KNOW! WHATEVER
THAT IS OUT THERE IT'S CHANGING
US IN HERE!"

I CAN FEEL
SOMETHING HAPPEN-
ING *INSIDE* ME!

ME TOO, LET'S FACE IT,
BASE... WE'RE **TRAPPED!**
WE'VE JUST GOT TO RIDE THIS
THING OUT TILL THE OTHER
ORBITER ARRIVES!

ALL WE'VE GOT
GOING FOR US
RIGHT NOW IS
EACH OTHER..!



THEN THERE'S
REALLY NO POINT
IN **PUTTING THIS**
OFF ANY LONGER.
IS THERE?

NO
POINT
AT ALL!



WE'D BETTER **HURRY**,
MIKE. I CAN'T **EXPLAIN**
IT... BUT SOMEHOW I CAN
SENSE WE DON'T HAVE
MUCH TIME LEFT
TO US!

THEN WE'LL
JUST HAVE TO
MAKE **EVERY**
MINUTE
COUNT!



THAT'S THE **HERMES-7!?**
NO WONDER THEY
CAN'T GET OUT.

GOD WHAT AN UNSIGHTLY
MESS! IT LOOKS LIKE A
STOMACH TURNED
INSIDE OUT!

WHILE INSIDE THE
HERMES-7, A HAND
TWITCHES...



...A NOW USELESS OUTFIT
OF CLOTHES IS QUICKLY
DISCARDED



...BUT WHERE ARE THE OTHER TWO
MEMBERS OF THE CREW?



A PATH OF
STREWN CLOTHES
TO LEAD THE WAY...



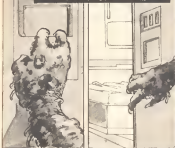
PROCEED WITH CAUTION
YOU TWO. WE REALLY DON'T
KNOW WHAT WE'RE UP
AGAINST HERE!

JEEZ-- I THINK I CAN
SEE IT PULSATING! IT'S
ALIVE...JUST LIKE
WE ARE!

ALIVE, MAYBE...
BUT NOTHING
LIKE WE ARE!

A HAND REACHES FOR A
SILENT PNEUMATIC LATCH...

...TAKING GREAT CARE NOT TO DISTURB
THE SOUNDS OF RHYTHMICAL HEAVY
BREATHING COMING FROM THE
FLOTATION-SED INSIDE...



MAINTAIN MAXIMUM BLAST SETTINGS/
ACCORDING TO THE SPECS, WE SHOULD
FIND A HATCH IN THIS SECTION
OF HULL!



ONE HATCH
COMING UP,
SIR!

THERE ARE THOSE ASTRO-BIOLOGISTS
WHO WOULD THEORIZE AT THIS POINT
THAT MIKE... IN SPITE OF HIS TRANS-
MUTATION... WAS STILL CAPABLE OF
HUMAN, EMOTIONAL RESPONSE...

...SHOCK AND
SURPRISE,
FOR EXAMPLE...



...OR SUDDEN *HURT*, QUICKLY
FOLLOWED BY FANGS OF
JEALOUSY...



...*JEALOUSY* WHICH WOULD SWIFTLY GIVE WAY
TO OVERWHELMING, RAMPANT *RAGE*...!



...*ROBBED* OF THEIR CAPACITIES
FOR *THOUGHT* AND *REASON*...!



PERHAPS THEY MIGHT THEORIZE BASE *EMOTIONS*
WERE THE ONLY *CONSTANTS* THE UNFORTUNATE
CREW MEMBERS COULD FALL BACK ON...HAVING
BEEN *ROBBED* OF THEIR *PHYSICAL IDENTITIES*...





OH DEAR GOD!
WHAT DID WE
WALK IN ON?

YOU THINK THEY'RE
GONNA TELL US?
FIRE AT WILL!



PPPHHHHZZZZZZTTTTTTT



SO MUCH
FOR THOSE
TWO!

SIR, WHAT SHALL
WE DO ABOUT THE
OTHER ONE?



IT SEEMS *DOCILE*
ENOUGH...MAYBE IT'S
SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW
WE COULD *VAPORIZE*
IT WITHOUT BLINKING
TWICE!

KEEP YOUR *LASERS*
ON IT! I'M GOING TO FIND
THE *CREW*...OR WHAT'S
LEFT OF THEM!

THESE DEVILS PROBABLY
TORE THEM
APART BEFORE THEY
STARTED GOING AT
EACH OTHER!

...FINALLY THE RESCUE TEAM REALIZED THE TERRIBLE TRUTH... THE THREE HIDEOUS ALIENS THEY FOUND ABOARD ACTUALLY WERE THE HERMES-7 CREW!

WHICH AGAIN BRINGS ME TO THE CHICKEN AND EGG ANALOGY, CHET.

THE ALIEN ORGANISM ENVELOPED THE HULL OF THE SHIP... SO IT COULD ADAPT THE HERMES-7 TO SERVE AS ITS "EGG"...



...ALL THE WHILE RADIATING THE CREW MEMBERS INSIDE, CAUSING THE TRANSFORMATION FROM OUR BIOLOGY TO ITS BIOLOGY.

...IN EFFECT, INCUBATING ITS YOUNG! BY THE TIME THE RESCUE TEAM LASERED THEIR WAY INTO THE HULL--



OH MY, I BELIEVE I UNDERSTAND... BY THAT TIME IT WAS IF THE RESCUE CREW HAD ARRIVED ON THE SCENE TO "WATCH THE EGG"!

THAT POOR UNFORTUNATE SURVIVOR... WHOEVER IT IS...

FOR THE MOMENT ALL WE CAN DO IS KEEP IT ALIVE... IN COMPLETELY ISOLATED STERILE CONDITIONS, OF COURSE!

WE OBVIOUSLY CANNOT RISK ALLOWING EVEN ONE ALIEN MICROBE TO COME INTO CONTACT WITH THE ATMOSPHERE... WHO KNOWS WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN?



YOUR HAND, DWIGHT...

...WHAT'S THAT ON YOUR HAND, FOR GODSAKES?

OH YOU MEAN THIS? JUST A BAD BURN FROM A FAULTY TOASTER! I'D BETTER HAVE SOMEONE AT THE INFIRMARY TAKE CARE OF IT!



WHEN... FOR A SECOND THERE, I THOUGHT...

I KNOW WHAT YOU THOUGHT... BUT THAT SORT OF THING ONLY HAPPENS AT THE TAIL-END OF LUDIC SCIENCE-FICTION STORIES!



I COULD SURE USE A CUP OF COFFEE... HOW ABOUT YOU?

THE **FREIGHTER PODS** OF THE INTERSTELLAR ZOO SUPPLY COMPANY SHIP LIE STREWN ABOUT THE ALIEN VERDURE LIKE **ROSARY BEADS** IN A NUN'S LAP!

ALL BUT ONE...THE **COMMAND POD**, HAVE BEEN GUTTED UPON CRASHDOWN... SPELLING THEIR **LIVING CARGO** LIKE ENTRAILS ONTO THE CRIMSON VEGETATION OF THIS UNCHARTED **JUNGLE WORLD**!

MATTY FARGO...IZSC SALES AND SUPPLY OFFICER... HAS BEEN SPARED THE **DEATH SCREAMS** OF HIS CONSIGNMENT... BUT HE CAN IMAGINE WHAT IT HAD SOUNDED LIKE FROM THE SIGHT THAT HAD GREETED HIS EYES UPON REGAINING CONSCIOUSNESS. IT ISN'T VERY **PRETTY**!

BUT IT IS A **PICNIC** COMPARED TO WHAT HE FACES NEXT! **ALONE**, ARMED ONLY WITH A **HANDBLASTER** FOR ALL HE KNOWS, STILL BEING TRACKED BY THE **ALIENS** WHO HAVE SHOT HIM OUT OF THE SKY, UNABLE TO CONTACT HIS SUPPLY BASE... **MATTY FARGO** HAS TO SAFEGUARD HIS REMAINING **STOCK** BY LEADING IT EVEN **DEEPER** INTO THIS WORLD'S...

Heart of Darkness

SUNNUVA BITCH... WHAT A MUCKING MESS!!



GOD'S SHROUD...NINETY PERCENT OF MY COMMISSION SHOT TO SHINDOLA!

COULDN'T EVEN SEND OFF AN S.O.S. 'FORE THOSE STARSUCKA BREEVERS CUT ME DOWN!

"FACELESS BUZZARDS! THEY POPPED OUTTA HYPERSPACE RIGHT ONTO MY SHIPPING LANE... ('COURSE, THE COMPANY PLOTTED THAT COURSE RIGHT THROUGH BREEVER SPACE IN DEFIANCE OF TRADE AGREEMENTS!)"



"BUT WHAT THE HELL? THEY COULDA BOARDED INSTEAD OF BLASTIN' ME DOWN ONTO THIS STEAMIN' STINKWORLD!"

"IT'S THEM... THEY'RE STILL SCOUTIN' FOR ME!"

NEVER KNEW EVEN A BREEVER T'GET SO OBSTINATE OVER A CARGO OF ANIMALS SHIPPED THROUGH THEIR SPACE BEFORE.



...AND GET RID OF ANY INDICATION THAT MIGHT LEAD THE BREEVER'S 'T' BELIEVE I'M STILL ALIVE!

GOT SCRAMBLERS ON BOTH ME AN' THE HERD! ONCE WE'RE IN THE JUNGLE, AN' NO INSTRUMENT KNOWN TO BREEVER SCIENCE CAN FIND US!

FARGO FIDDLER WITH THE DIGITAL CONTROLS OF THE PLASMA-DETONATOR...



"...BUT I CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE ANY SLEEP OVER IT! GOTTA GET WHAT'S LEFT OF THIS HERD AWAY FROM THE POOS..."



...AND THE FREIGHTER POOS SELF-DESTRUCT IN A PREARRANGED SEQUENCE!



THE POOD
BECOME
SLAG
IN MERE
SECONDS!

C'WON, YA
IGNORANT
DONKEYS!

AND THE
SLAG BE-
GINS TO
COOL IN
SECONDS
MORE!

WE GOT US
SOME *DISTANCE*
TO COVER.

BUT, AS THE
LAST OF THE
HERD ENTERS
THE JUNGLE
THE *HARKNESS*
CATCHES ON
A LIMB...

AN MILES
TWO BEFORE I
SLEEP!

...AND AT LEAST ONE
CREATURE WILL BE EMIT-
TING OFF-WORLD SIGNALS...

...TO WHOMEVER SHOULD HAPPEN TO BE
MONITORING THE PLANET'S SURFACE!



AT DAWN, THE BREEVERS BEAM
DOWN TO THE PLANET'S
SURFACE, DISCOVERING FIRST
THE TRACKS OF THE MISSING
MATTY FARGO... THEN THE
DISPLACED SCRAMBLER.

THEY SHRUG... AND TRANSPORT
BACK TO THEIR SHIP!



THE JUNGLE INTO WHICH THEIR
QUARRY HAS FLED WILL SOON
BECOME A STEAMING HELL...

...AND IN THE COOL INTERIOR OF THEIR STARGSHIP, THEY CAN AFFORD TO WAIT!

MOVE, YA DUNGHEAP MANURE PILES...

WHAT? THE TRAIL JUST DROPS OFF INTO NOTHINGNESS! GEEZ! HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO GET THESE NAGS ACROSS THAT?

DO NOT TO THINK IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE I DID SURVIVAL TRAINING! THE COMPANY DON'T STRESS IT ANYMORE!

GOTTA TAKE SOME LIQUID PILLS AN' VITAMIN SUPPLEMENTS 'FORE I TRY TO GO ANY FURTHER!

THROAT'S SO DAMNED PARCHED I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I CAN SWALLOW...

BUT AS FARSDO RAISES THE PRECIOUS CAPSULES TO HIS EAGER LIPS...

GOOD LORD! MY RATIONS!

OH MY GOD...

ALL THE CAPSULES SCATTERED AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS CLIFF!

MEANWHILE, ON THE BRIDGE OF THE BREEVER BATTLECRUISER...

NEVER BE ABLE TO REACH 'EM!

...THERE ARE SOUNDS NOT UNLIKE... LAUGHTER!

BUT THE LAUGHTER PENETRATES NEITHER THE JUNGLE NOR THE ONCOMING NIGHT!

EXHAUSTED, HUNGRY, OVERHEATED... MATTY FARGO SHEDS THE BULK OF HIS CLOTHING AND SLEEPS FITFULLY, HEAD PILLOWED ON HIS HANDBLASTER!

THE MERO WILL WAKE HIM IN THE EVENT OF DANGER...

...OR SOME THINKS!

HUH? WHAT...?

SKREE

SKREE

FLAT

SCAVENGER-RATS!!

SKREE

SKREE

THERE ARE FAR TOO MANY TARGETS FOR HIS FLASHING BLASTER... AND THOSE HE MISSES QUICKLY VANISH, BEARING ALL THEY CAN CARRY!

YOU DIDN'T WARN ME! YOU COULD'VE RAISED A FUSS... BUT YOU WANTED 'EM TO CATCH ME SLEEPIN'!

LOOK AT YOU! HUDDLIN' TOGETHER... PLOTTIN' AGAINST ME...

IF YOU BLASTED JACKASSES WEREN'T COMPANY PROPERTY, I'D...

SEE... WHAT AM I SAYIN' YOU'RE ANIMALS! YOU CAN'T THINK LIKE I CAN!

AND IT'S THINKING THAT'S GONNA GET ME OUT OF THIS!

UNFORTUNATELY, MATTY FARGO NEVER GETS THE CHANCE...

ROWRR

TREE-TIGER! IT'S
CLAWS RIP DEEP
INTO FARGO'S BACK!

AND HE FEELS HIS LIFE
BEING TORN OUT OF HIM
AS THE TIGER RAKES
HIS FLESH AGAIN AND
AGAIN!

YEEARGGHH!

GG- GGNHAAA!

CAT-
FILTH...!!

FZZAM

REEOWW

THE CAT FALLS... BLASTED
HEADLESS... BUT TOO LATE
TO SAVE FARGO!

HIS LIFE RUNS IN RED RIVULETS
INTO THE PLANET'S GUTS!

YOU SET ME
UP FOR THAT, YOU
HOOVED BUZZARDS!



FARGO'S BLASTER-FLARE LIGHTS THE CLEARING, SLASHING GARISH SHADOWS ON THE HERD AS IT LEAPS IN ONE FLUID, CONCERTED MOVE...

WHEE-EE-EE

I'M TAKIN' YOU WITH ME!



...OVER HIS HEAD AND AWAY...



...BACK INTO THE JUNGLE AND THE LOOMING DARKNESS!

BUT MATEY FARGO ISN'T ABOUT TO DIE WITHOUT DEPRIVING THE BREEVERS OF HIS CARGO!

DUMB ANIMALS! BLASTER MUST'VE PANICKED 'EM!

SHOULD BE...EASY...T' CATCH UP TO...



C-CAN'T LET THE BREEVERS HAVE 'EM!

SIDES, IT... IT'S THE...

I-YO... VALUABLE! N-NOTHIN' ELSE LIKE 'EM ON EARTH!



...PRINCIPLE OF THE THING!!

WELL...I'LL BE DAMNNED!

MORE THAN LIKELY MR. FARGO!

THE BREEVERS STAND BEFORE HIM IN THE MOONLIT CLEARING... THE HERD HUDDLES IN FRONT OF THEM...FOR PROTECTION?

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